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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 383
By Atchley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Senator Carl O. Koella, Jr.

WHEREAS, on January 14, 1998, the members of the One-Hundredth General Assembly of the state of Tennessee, learned with great sorrow and regret of the death of our friend and colleague, Senator Carl O. Koella, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, his passing ends a distinguished career of public service to his community, his legislative district and the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Carl O. Koella, Jr. was born October 10, 1933 into a respected and enterprising Blount County family, owners of the Rockford Manufacturing Company; and

WHEREAS, He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and his LL.B degree from the University of Tennessee School of Law, and was a practicing attorney, businessman and farmer in Blount County; and

WHEREAS, Carl O. Koella, Jr. served in the United States Army and ultimately held the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve; and

WHEREAS, He developed an interest in the issues which affected his community and the State of Tennessee, which led him, at age 31, to seek and win election to the 1964 Constitutional Convention; and

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WHEREAS, In the 1972 general election, Carl O. Koella, Jr. was elected to fill the eighth district Senate seat formerly occupied by Senator Houston Goddard, easily outdistancing his opponent; and

WHEREAS, the tall young Senator diligently applied himself to mastering the intricacies of the legislative process, and for the next quarter of a century worked to articulate the viewpoints and philosophy of his constituency; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the eighth senatorial district, comprised at times over the years of all or parts of Blount, Sevier, Loudon, Monroe, and Knox Counties, consistently returned Carl O. Koella, Jr. to the Senate to represent their views and their interests; and

WHEREAS, Senator Koella's service to his constituency was appreciated, as evidenced by the naming in 1995 of the exhibition and demonstration addition to the Townsend Visitors Center in his honor; and

WHEREAS, during his years of service, the General Assembly emerged as an independent and innovative branch of government in its own right, after years in the shadow of the executive branch; and

WHEREAS, during that period, Senator Koella applied himself to the work of the Senate, as a member, Secretary, and for the past five General Assemblies, Chairman of the Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee; as a member of the Judiciary Committee for 22 years; the State and Local Government Committee since 1981; the General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee since 1995; and of the Rules Committee since 1979; and

WHEREAS, Senator Koella was respected by his peers for his forthright and forceful expression of his viewpoint on matters before the Senate, never hesitating to advance his opinion, even when moving against the tide of the Senate's sentiment; and

WHEREAS, Senator Koella was willing to incur the wrath of friends and political allies in pursuing matters of conviction, and was known for being true to his word; and

WHEREAS, Senator Koella did not seek credit for many of his legislative initiatives and accepted occasional criticism for his stands with a faint smile, knowing that he had done what he thought best; and

WHEREAS, his keen mind and tenacity in legislative arenas was reflected in his private life by his love of bridge and the opportunity that it afforded him for the exercise of his wits and competitive spirit; and

WHEREAS, as Chairman of the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee, Senator Koella presided with a firm, no-nonsense manner, but always with fairness, earning the appreciation and respect of the members and staff of the committee, as well as other members of the Senate appearing before the committee; and

WHEREAS, throughout his years of service, Senator Koella introduced and worked to enact a wide variety of measures to improve the operation of government, to encourage economic opportunities and to serve the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Senator Koella successfully championed education, tourism and economic development, and sponsored numerous pieces of landmark legislation, including laws which increased the penalties for marijuana possession and toughened penalties for rapists; and

WHEREAS, His community will miss his leadership as an attorney, businessman, civic leader and founder of Peninsula Psychiatric Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Despite a long illness, Senator Koella rarely missed a meeting or a vote; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor John Wilder sadly stated “Carl was loyal; he was trustworthy and he made a big difference for good”; and

WHEREAS, Governor Don Sundquist commented that “Carl showed the same courage and determination in fighting his long illness as he did in fighting for what he believed in.”; and

WHEREAS, A faithful member of New Providence Presbyterian Church and a loving son, husband and father, Carl O. Koella's absence will be marked in Blount County and the Eighth Senatorial District; and

WHEREAS, He will be sorely missed by his wife, Maribel; his mother, Mrs. Betty Koella, and his children, Carl O., III, Richard, Abby, and Laura; as well as members of the General Assembly, past and present, and his many friends and colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we pause to express our gratitude for the life of Senator Carl O. Koella, Jr. and for the friendship we enjoyed with him.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our profound sense of loss and offer our condolences to his wife, Maribel, his mother, Mrs. Betty Koella, and to Carl, III, Richard, Abby and Laura.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be prepared for each member of Senator Koella's family named immediately above with this final clause omitted.